

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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■ I-10 widening coming soon to Redlands

Traffic relief is on the way for travelers on Interstate 10 through Redlands. The SANBAG Board of Directors gave the green light to advertise for construction bids for the widening of the freeway east of the Route 30 interchange, a section well known for its bottlenecks during peak morning and afternoon commute hours.

The estimated \$35 million project will cover about 2.5 miles from Orange Street to Ford Street and will add two freeway lanes next to the center median — one eastbound and one westbound. Eleven bridges will be widened, and 4,400 meters (2.7 miles) of sound walls will be built.

The project will connect to the new eastbound truck-climbing lane being built now between Redlands and Yucaipa.

SANBAG expects to begin advertising for bids in early July, with construction set to begin this fall. Work will last about two years.



Paving of the new eastbound I-10 truck-climbing lane between Redlands and Yucaipa is nearly complete. The truck-climbing lane will connect with the upcoming widening of I-10 to the west.

■ All aboard for new Metrolink parking lot

Metrolink riders should have an easier time finding a place to park, thanks to a temporary parking lot to be built later this year at the San Bernardino station.

SANBAG's Board of Directors awarded a \$55,156 contract to Lim and Nascimento Engineering for plans, specifications and construction management services for the parking lot to be built west of Mt. Vernon Avenue. An asphalt walkway that runs under the Mt. Vernon bridge will connect the lot to the train station. The lot would provide about 110 parking spaces, in addition to the 305 now available.

Advertising for construction bids is planned for August; work is set to start in early September and be complete by late October. Construction costs are estimated at \$200,000.

"We have a severe parking shortage at the San Bernardino station, and this lot should help meet that need relatively quickly," said Mike Bair, SANBAG's director of transit/rail programs.

A long-term parking structure also is being planned east of Mt. Vernon Avenue to provide another 360 spaces for Metrolink passengers.

■ Highway 395 widening project moves forward

Work will start soon on the Project Approval/Environmental Document phase for the widening of a 16-mile stretch of Highway 395 north of Interstate 15 between Victorville and Adelanto.

The SANBAG Board approved an agreement with Caltrans to fund this phase of work, which will be funded by a \$1.4 million federal contribution from SANBAG and an additional \$600,000 combined contribution from Adelanto, Hesperia, Victorville and the County of San Bernardino.

The project will widen the highway to four lanes with a continuous median left-turn lane. Some parts of 395 are already widened to four lanes in the Victor Valley, but a number of gaps exist, with the highway fluctuating from two lanes to four lanes, creating traffic congestion and driver confusion.

The PA/ED phase will be followed by design, right of way purchase and construction, with completion expected in 2014. The total project costs are about \$41 million.

Long-term improvements to the highway between I-15 and Kramer Junction also are planned for the future.

Down the road ...

- May 11: Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- May 18: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon; Administrative Committee, 1:30 p.m.
- May 20: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- June 2: Transportation Corridor Preservation Workshop, Ontario Airport Marriott

Celebrate Clean Air Month by sharing rides, cycling to work

Improve air quality, health, traffic congestion, personal finances by ridesharing

The American Lung Association has designated May as "Clean Air Month." Air pollution is a key contributor to lung problems, allergies, cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Ridesharing can help reduce pollutants, traffic congestion and gasoline expenses. Walking or riding a bike to work also can improve physical fitness, an especially important benefit with swimsuit season right around the corner!

This month's issue of *Measuring Success* takes a look at ridesharing programs in the Inland Empire, with special information about the third annual Bike to Work Contest offered by San Bernardino County. Much of this information was adapted from Commuter Services' "Share the Road," a publication from the county's Employee Benefits & Services Division; Cyndi Zidell, editor. SANBAG funds ridesharing programs and incentives through Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County.



Fight high gas prices by ridesharing to work

Gasoline prices continue to climb. Using just mid-grade fuel, it now takes \$40 to fill a 15-gallon tank! Why not save a buck or two (or 40 or 80 ...) and instead get paid \$2 for each day of ridesharing during the first three months. SANBAG's Option Rideshare Program provides this incentive to residents of San Bernardino County whose employers agree to participate in this program.

After the three-month introductory period, employees who continue to rideshare at least one day each week may join Team Ride, a free program that provides discounts at more than 500 restaurants and other entertainment and service venues. The goodies don't stop there. Awards, prize drawings and other recognition are provided through Team Ride.

Ridesharing options include carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus, riding Metrolink, bicycling, walking or telecommuting. To receive more information about this benefit, call 1-866-RIDESHARE (1-866-743-3742), send an email to sanbag@its-consulting.net or log onto www.CommuteSmart.info.



Tips for reducing pollution from automobiles

Aside from ridesharing, there are many practical ways to reduce pollution and improve fuel economy. The Environmental Protection Agency offers these tips:

- Drive at a steady pace and use moderate speeds
- Combine errands into one trip. Starting a car after it has been sitting for more than an hour creates up to five times more pollution than when an engine is warm.

- Don't top off the tank. It releases gasoline fumes into the air and cancels the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices.
- Dump the junk from the trunk. Carrying around unneeded items decreases gas mileage.
- Keep tires properly inflated and wheels aligned.
- Get regular tune-ups and maintenance checks.
- Use the air conditioner only when really needed. Running the a/c places added drag on a car's engine that can cut gas mileage by up to 20 percent.



Hit the road on two wheels this month

Get to work on two wheels — it's as easy as riding a bike! Enter the third annual Bike to Work Contest and pump up your heart rate and muscles for a healthy ride to work.

Contact San Bernardino County's Commuter Services office, (909) 387-9639 for an entry form or visit www.sbcounty.gov/commuterservices under Special Events.

To qualify, cycle to work throughout the month of May, record your daily round-trip mileage on the entry form and return to the Commuter Services office by June 3. Employees who live more than seven miles from their worksite may take either the bus or Metrolink part of the way. Omnitrans, the Victor Valley Transit Authority and Metrolink all have bike racks on board.

The top four contest winners will receive these great prizes from Redlands Cyclery USA:

- New bicycle (\$400 value)
- Light kit (\$120 value)
- Windbreaker jacket (\$80 value)
- Bicycle pump (\$35 value)

Winners will be based on the total number of days, total round trips and mileage.

